



Cleaning the volume control potentiometer on the Pioneer VSX-918 receiver

NOTE: TEMPORARY FIX. Is your Pioneer VSX-918 receiver have control problems? This guide will show you how to fix the problem without purchasing new parts.

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INTRODUCTION

Guide warnings

- You will be working with high voltage equipment. I am not responsible for any deaths injuries attained while performing this procedure (or your stupidity).
- Use common sense when following this guide. If you are questioning your ability to complete this repair, it is best to have a professional do the job.
- **Professionals:** This is not a long term fix. It is meant for the home user to fix their receiver with minimal cost. For the sake of not having the issue come back, it is best to replace the failed board in question. As such, I do not recommend using it as a standard fix in a business.

If your Pioneer VSX-918 series receiver has developed control problems and you would like to avoid replacing the bad board unless you have to, this guide will show you how to use contact cleaner to try and repair the old board you have without a complete replacement.

While this fix is likely to work, the remaining use of the old board is not guaranteed. In some cases, the board will never fail again and may even last the life of the receiver. In other cases, the failure will reappear and you will need to replace the failed control board to fix the issue. In other cases, your board may be beyond repair.



TOOLS:

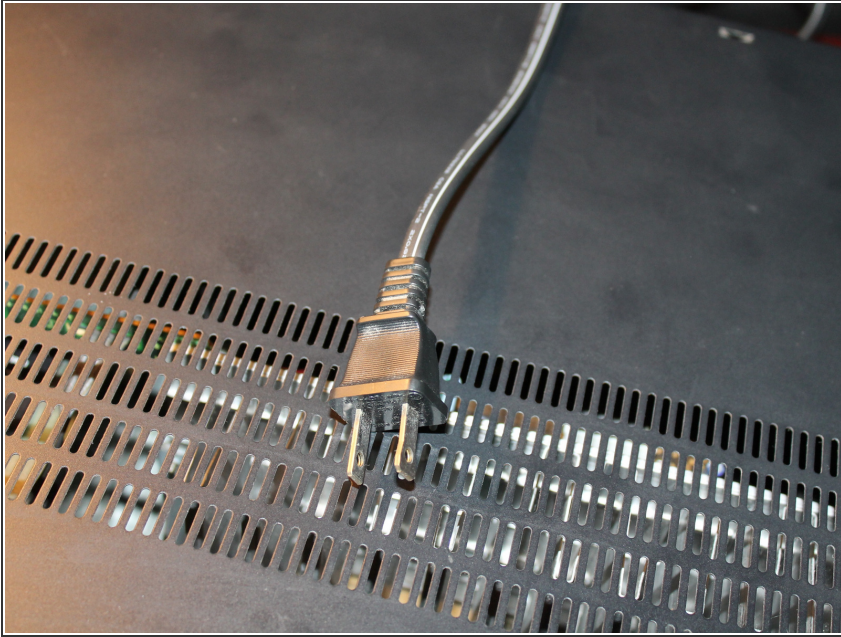
- [Phillips #2 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Magnetic Project Mat](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [DeoxIT](#) (1)
RadioShack Anti-Corrosive Lubricant spray should work, too.
- [RadioShack Control Contact Cleaner](#) (1)

Step 1 — Unplug the receiver



⚠ If you are uncertain if the majority of the power is drained, leave the unit unplugged for 48-72 hours. In most cases, the unit should have very little residual charge.

- Before working on the unit, disconnect the unit from the wall. To quickly drain most residual power from the system, press the power button for 30-60 seconds.

Step 2 — Remove the bottom faceplate screws



i Black marker On my unit, this screw hole was empty. If your unit has a screw here, remove it from the unit. While my unit does not have this screw, yours might.

- Remove the two screws holding the faceplate on the receiver. These screws are different and should be sorted accordingly to avoid confusion.

Step 3 — Remove side panel screws



- Remove the 2 screws from the left side of the receiver. These screws are the same length.
- Remove the 1 screw on the right side of the receiver. It should be the same as the screws removed from the left side, but this should be verified.

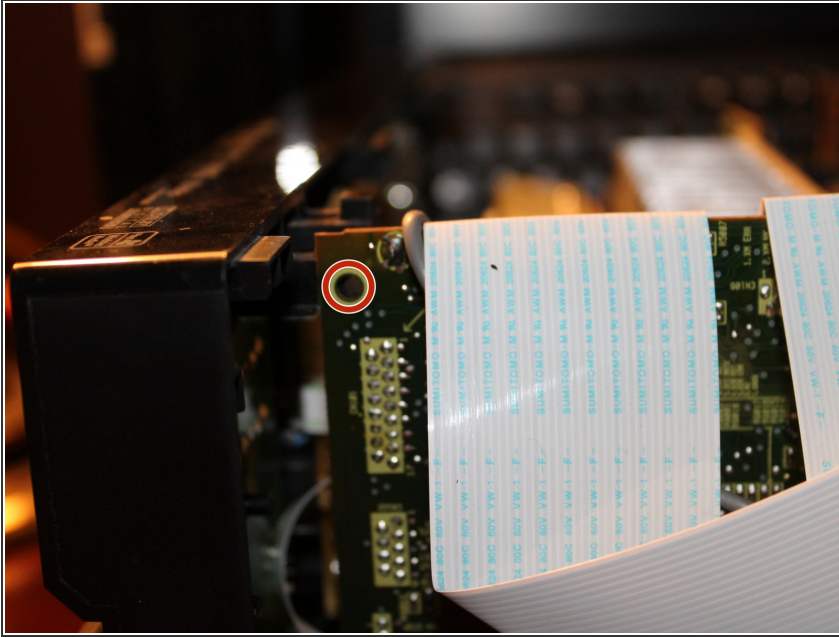
Step 4 — Remove the 3 back screws



⚠ Exercise extreme caution with the receiver at this point! If you touch a component at this stage you will not be protected from shock.

- Remove the 3 screws from the back of the receiver. Once these are removed, you can remove the top cover of the receiver.

Step 5 — Remove the plastic retention pin on the faceplate

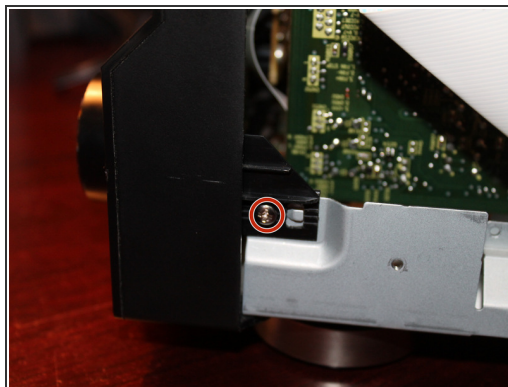


i Red marker If you break the pin or decide not to put it in, it is not essential. However, you may notice some wiggle in the faceplate if it is not replaced or damaged. While the faceplate may feel "loose", the back back cover is typically sufficient. HOWEVER, an effort to preserve it should be made.

i Red marker Units that have been worked on by someone who chose not to replace this pin will be easy to detect at this stage. If you do not see a pin holding the faceplate on, the unit was likely previously serviced.

- This pin is installed by the factory. In order to remove the faceplate, it must be removed.

Step 6 — Remove 2 screws hidden in the receiver



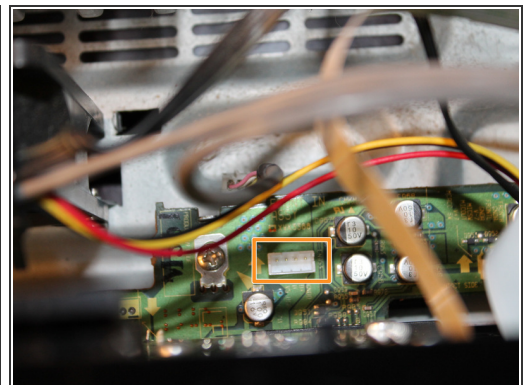
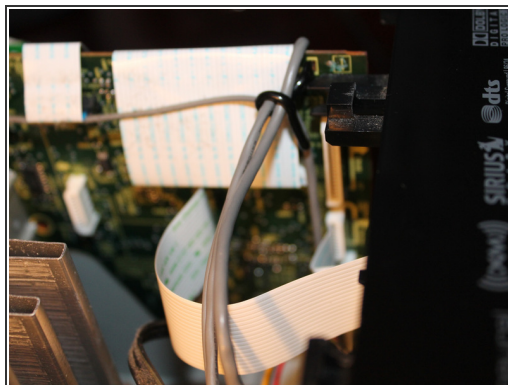
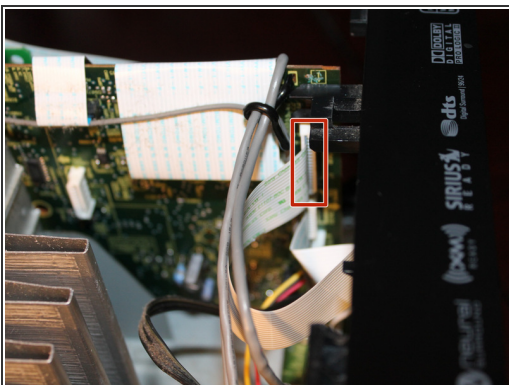
- After the clip from the faceplate is removed, remove the 2 screws that hold it into the chassis. These screws are both the same length.

Step 7 — Remove the knob from the receiver



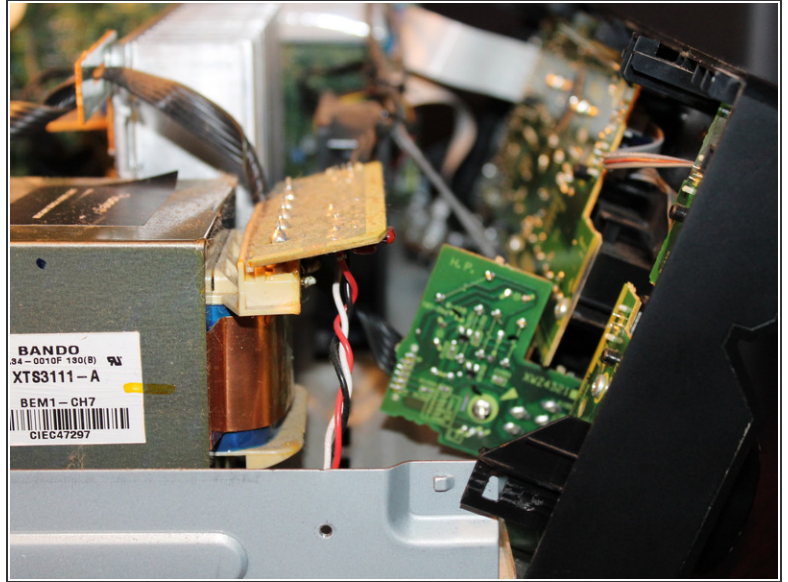
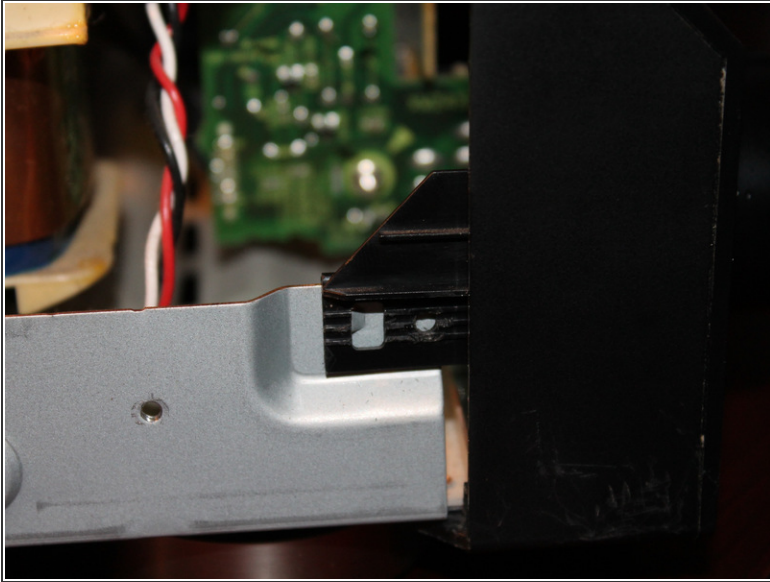
- i** If these knobs were never removed, removal can be tricky the first time. However, subsequent removal will be easier.
- Remove the control knob from the receiver. To do this, pull it off firmly, but do not use so much pressure you end up breaking things or forcing it. This one had a problem with the volume control specifically.

Step 8 — Disconnect the front panel flex cables



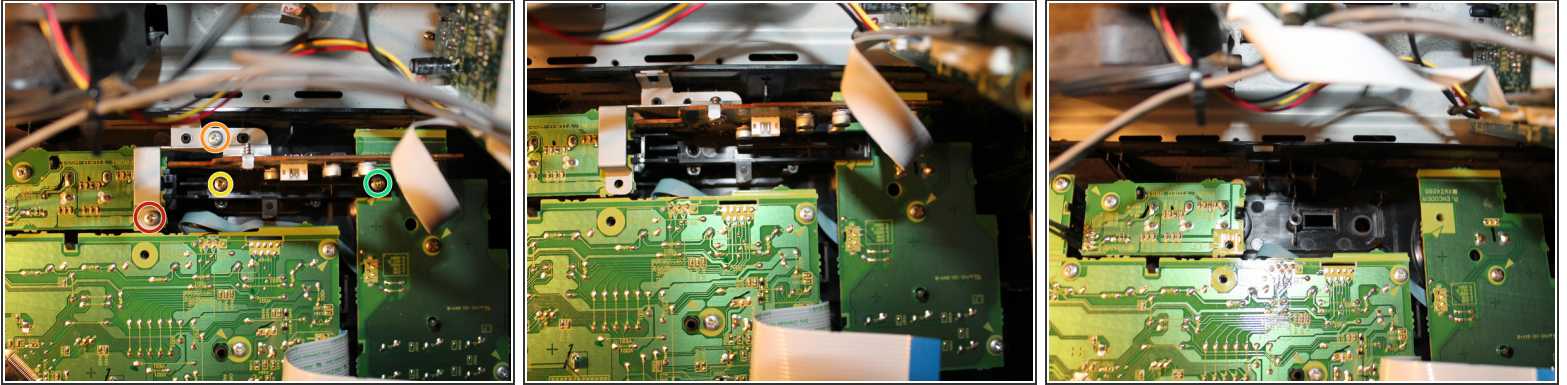
- Disconnect the main flat flex for the front panel.
- **Note: Does not apply to all units.** If your receiver has the iPod Direct option, disconnect the cables for this board. While it is not required, it helps reduce tension on this board.

Step 9 — Unclip the faceplate



- ☒ If you are still constrained for work space, disconnect the ziptie from the fan. **IMPORTANT: If this ziptie is cut, it should be replaced to avoid false protection mode problems, should the wires get stuck in the cooling fan.**
- With the faceplate loose and all of the cables disconnected, remove the faceplate from the receiver. While you can do this one side at a time, pushing both in at the same time is easier. Once this is done, the faceplate should tilt forward as shown in the 2nd picture.

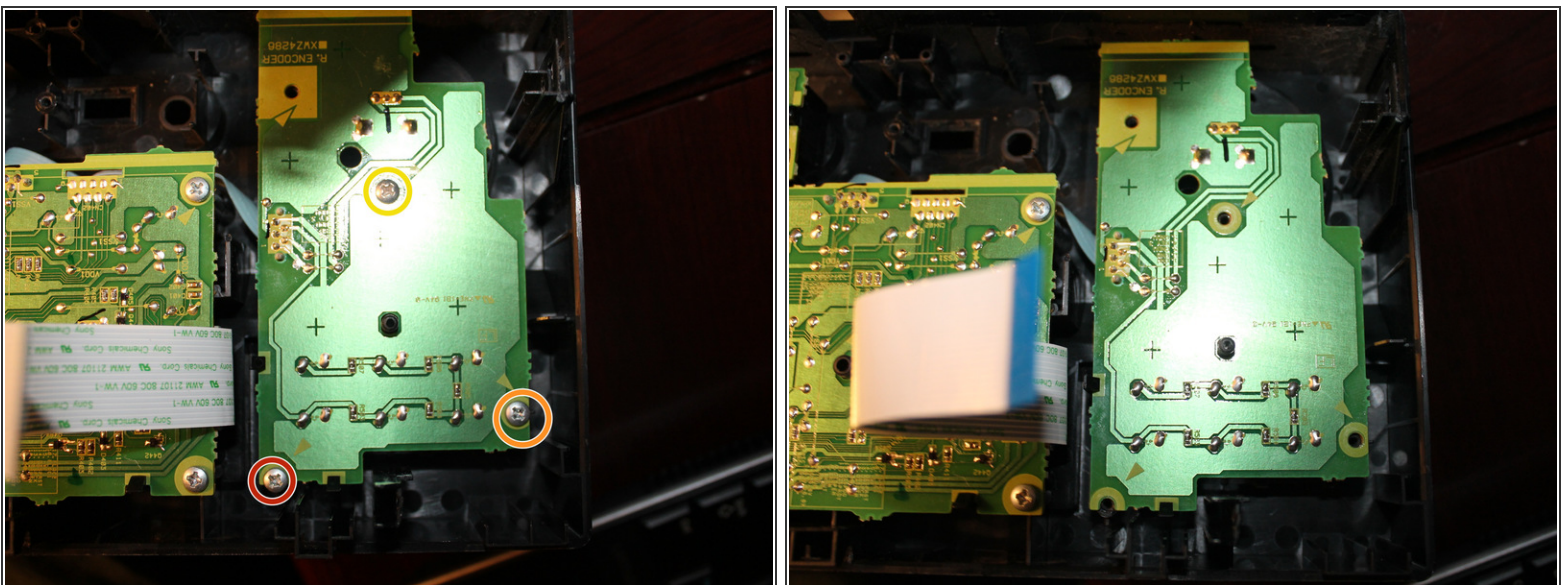
Step 10 — Remove the iPod Direct board



⚠ If your receiver does NOT have the iPod Direct option, some adjustments are required.

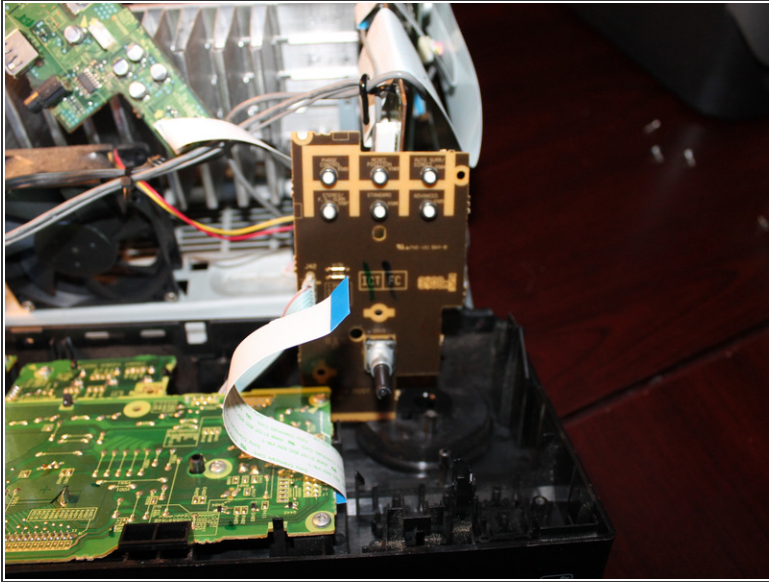
- **iPod Direct:** On these receivers, remove the 4 marked screws. Once this is done, set the board aside.
- **Non iPod Direct:** On these receivers, remove the Green and Red screws. Your receiver is unlikely to have the additional screws because there is no need for them.

Step 11 — Remove the control board that is faulty



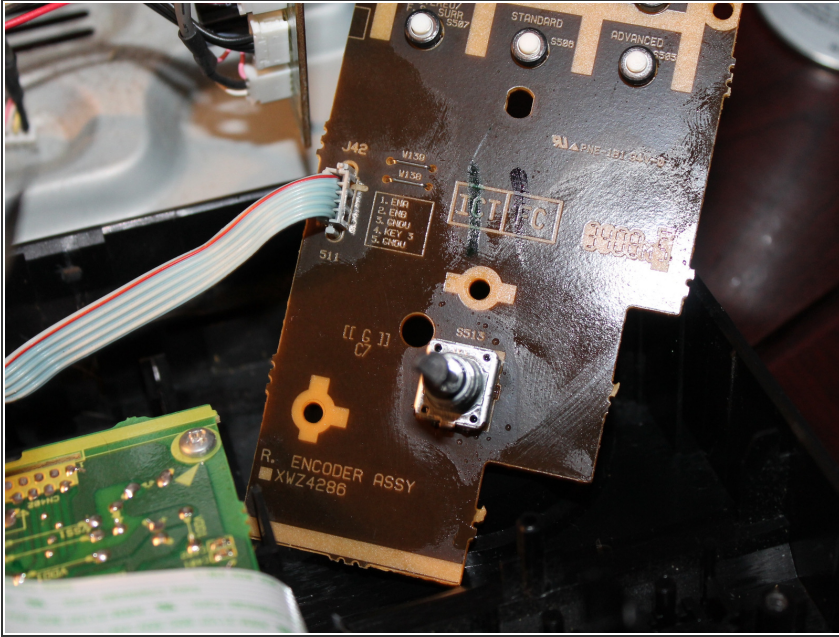
- Remove the 3 screws that hold the volume control board in the receiver's front faceplate.
- This screw is unique and only fits here. Make sure it is sorted accordingly.

Step 12 — Spray contact cleaner in the faulty potentiometer



- ☑ A little contact cleaner goes a long way. You should not need more than 1-2 small bursts of contact cleaner to get the switch to function. If more than 2 sprays are required, consider purchasing a replacement board.
- With the control board mostly removed, spray contact cleaner into the potentiometer. While you can use any contact cleaner, DeoxIT is your best option as most formulations are anti corrosive. Once you have sprayed contact cleaner into the potentiometer, turn it several times.

Step 13 — Wipe away any excess contact cleaner



⚠ The only reliable long term fix for this problem is a replacement board. The reason for this is there is no way to tell if your board will keep working for years or fail again.

⚠ While you can reassemble the unit right away, it should not be plugged in for ~30 minutes-1 hour. This will allow any leftover contact cleaner to dry.

★ If you cut the ziptie, now is the perfect time to replace it. Reassemble the unit in a way the wires will not get stuck in the fan and ziptie them back where they used to be. Failure to do this may result in protection mode problems. **Tip: If you do not have zipties, try tucking the wires behind the fan in a way they will not fall loose.**

- If any contact cleaner got on the board, wipe it off before reassembling the unit. Once this is dried up as well as you can, wait on reassembly or begin reassembling the unit now.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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